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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1947

DALKEITH PRESS LTD., KETTERING

Urban District of Desborough

Members of the Public Health Committee:

Mr. R. G. Marlow, (Chairman).

Messrs. H. Coe, R. G. Coe, W. J. Holland, Mrs. A. B. Lock,

Messrs. A. H. Noon, J. Townley.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:

Medical Officer of Health:

JOHN TERENCE MURPHY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Also holds the appointments of Medical Officer of Health to the Urban District Councils of Burton Latimer, Corby, Rothwell, the Rural District of Kettering and Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer to the Northamptonshire County Council.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor:

ARTHUR HARRIS, M.I.MUN.E., A.R.S.I.

Public Health Department,
75, London Road,
KETTERING.

July 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Desborough Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Lock and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District for 1947.

It is with pleasure that I record that only one infantile death occurred during the year which is an indication of the high standard of medical and nursing services in the Urban District combined with increasing betterment in the environmental and social conditions of the whole community.

There were no cases of Diphtheria notified during the year, however, it must be emphasised that in order to have the optimum benefit from Diphtheria immunisation, a high level of immunised children, especially in children under 5 years of age, must be maintained.

I wish to express thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support throughout the year and also to the Clerk and Sanitary Inspector for their co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. MURPHY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

The following is a summary of the principal statistics for the years
1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947.

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Area (acres)	2400	2400	2400	2400	2400
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	4643	4316	4226	4429	4494
Number of Live Births	78	100	66	99	97
Legitimate	71	88	59	96	94
Illegitimate	7	12	7	3	3
Birthrate per 1,000 population	16.79	23.16	15.61	22.35	21.58
Number of Still Births	2	—	1	4	1
Legitimate	2	—	1	4	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births	25	—	14.92	38.83	10.20
Rate per 1,000 population	0.43	—	0.23	0.90	0.22
Number of deaths	51	55	52	47	50
Death rate per 1,000 population (crude)	10.98	12.74	12.30	10.61	11.12
Total Maternal Deaths	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Other Puerperal Causes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	56.33	40.00	15.15	30.30	10.30
* Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	1	3	1	—	3
* Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	2	—	—	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	9	8	9	9	10
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea under two years of age	—	—	—	—	—

* Registrar-General's figures

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1947

	Rate per 1,000 Total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population								Rate per 1,000 live births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fever	Small-Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diph- theria	Influenza	Diarr- hoea & Enteritis under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales	20.5	0.50	12.0	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.09	5.8	41
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	23.3	0.62	13.0	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.09	8.0	47
148 Smaller Towns estd. resident popu- lations, 25,000— 50,000	22.2	0.54	11.9	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.08	3.7	36
London	22.7	0.49	12.8	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.08	4.8	37
Desborough Urban District	21.58	0.22	11.12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10.30

	Abortion with Sepsis	Abortion without sepsis	Puerperal infections	Others	Total
The Maternal Mortality rates for England and Wales per 1,000 total births	0.10	0.06	0.16	0.85	1.17
The Maternal Mortality rates for Desborough per 1,000 total births	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil

SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (acres)	2,400
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population	4,494
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1947) according to	
Rate Books	1,434
Rateable Value	£22,122
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£83

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are as follows:—

Boot and shoe manufacture, corset manufacture, manufacture of cardboard boxes and rigid containers, ironstone quarrying, farming.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

LIVE BIRTHS.				Total	Males	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	94	46	48
Illegitimate	...	...	...	3	2	1
				—	—	—
	Totals	...		97	48	49
				—	—	—

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population

STILL BIRTHS.				Total	Males	Females
				1	—	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...			...	10.20

DEATHS				Total	Males	Females
				50	23	27
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population						11.12

Deaths from Puerperal causes:—

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—
Other Puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...			—

Death-rate of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	10.30
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...			10.63
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				—

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...		—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	10
Deaths—No "comparability" factor was issued for 1947.				

Births.—The following table shows the birth rate for 1947 together with the rate for England and Wales.

Live Birth Rates, 1947.

Desborough	...	...	...	...	21.58
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	20.5

Infantile mortality is the number of deaths in children under one year of age per 1,000 live births. This is an indication of the environmental and social conditions of a community with special reference to housing, overcrowding and maternity and child welfare.

Infantile Mortality Rates, 1947.

Desborough	...	...	...	...	10.30
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	41.0

Deaths of Infants under One year of age.—The causes of death in children under one year with age and sex distribution are given in the following table:—

Age	Sex	Cause of Death
2 months	F.	Lobar Pneumonia

The registered causes of death were as follows:—

					Males	Females	Total
All Causes	...	...	...	...	23	27	50
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers				...	—	—	—
2 Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5 Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6 Tuberculosis of the respiratory system				...	2	1	3
7 Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8 Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9 Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
10 Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
11 Acute Poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis				...	—	—	—
12 Acute infantile encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
13 Cancer	...	...	...	...	4	6	10
14 Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
15 Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	6	5	11
16 Intracranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	4	7	11
17 Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
18 Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
19 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
20 Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
21 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
22 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
23 Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

Registered Causes of Death—continued.

					Males	Females	Total
24	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
25	Nephritis ...	...	...	...	2	2	4
26	Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	—	—	—
27	Premature Birth	...	...	...	—	—	—
28	Congenital debility, malformation, and birth injury	...	...	...	—	—	—
29	Suicide ...	...	...	...	1	—	1
30	Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	—	—	—
31	Other violent causes	...	...	...	—	—	—
32	All other causes	...	...	...	2	2	4

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services.

(a) **Laboratory facilities.**—Bacteriological examinations have been carried out by the Emergency Public Health laboratory at Northampton.

The following specimens were examined:— 1947

Swabs	...	...	...	...	...	1
Blood	...	...	...	...	...	—
Faeces	...	...	...	...	...	—
Urine	...	...	...	...	...	—
Hairs from scalp (suspected Ringworm) ...						—

(b) **Ambulance facilities.**—Infectious cases are removed by the ambulance of the Joint Hospital Board. Non-infectious and accident cases are removed by the ambulance under the administration of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.**—The Desborough Nursing Association which is affiliated to the County Nursing Association provides the services of two whole time nurses. Details of the work carried out during 1947 are as follows:

Cases Nursed		Maternity	Total
General	Midwifery		Visits
113	27	48	3,220

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**—A County Council Child Welfare Clinic is held twice monthly. A Medical Officer attends one session each month.

The County Council is the Authority for the treatment of Tuberculosis and the Tuberculosis Officer attends weekly at the Health Clinic, Market Street, Kettering.

Orthopaedic cases attend the Manfield Orthopaedic Clinic at Kettering.

Persons suffering from Venereal Diseases are treated at the Kettering and District General Hospital every Thursday evening under the County Council scheme.

Under the Scabies Order, 1941, no cases were reported during the year 1947.

Diphtheria Immunisation:—From 1941 free immunisation against Diphtheria was offered to children from one to fifteen years of age.

The number of children who were immunised in 1947 is as follows:

Under 5 years	...	...	...	...	41
5 to 14 years	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	42

The number of children who have had the full course of immunisation since the beginning of the scheme is as follows:—

Age at 31-12-47	Under	1	1	2	3	4
i.e. Born in Year	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	
Number immunised	1	27	20	37	43	

Estimated mid-year population, 1947, 370.

Age at 31-12-47	5 to 9	10 to 14
i.e. Born in the Year 1938-1942		1933-1937
Number immunised	216	265

The above figures do not include those children immunised by private arrangement.

SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.—A good supply of water both in quantity and quality was maintained throughout the year. Although the period from April onwards was a particularly dry one, at no time was it found necessary to enforce restriction or curtail the supply.

From bacteriological examinations of the water it was shewn that the quality was satisfactory.

Chemical examination revealed the water, apart from being hard, to be of good quality and safe for drinking purposes. The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

Practically the whole of the population is served by the public supply. A seventh of the houses and population, mostly in the old portion of the Town, are served by standpipes in the yard or at the rear of houses. The water service to the remainder is direct to all other dwellings.

Five farms being a long distance from the service mains are without a piped water supply.

Drainage and Sewerage.—No new works of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal have been undertaken during the year. The Sewage Disposal Works have been well maintained and are dealing efficiently with the daily flow. The effluent produced has been uniformly good throughout the year. Sewage sludge has been disposed of to allotment holders, 67 loads being delivered by the Council.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—During the year 203 inspections were made. 53 nuisances were abated by serving informal notices. No statutory notices were necessary.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.—The Northamptonshire Agricultural Executive Committee in agreement with the Council treated the House Refuse Tip and Sewage Disposal Works. These two sites are being kept free from vermin.

The sewers have been test baited and no baits were taken.

SECTION D. Housing.

Four houses were built during 1947 by private enterprise. Eighteen were completed by the Council. A further twentysix were in course of erection at the end of the year.

Factories Act 1937.—Sixteen inspections of Factories were made. Two notices were served. These referred to the want of cleanliness and defective W.C's. The defects were found to have been remedied on subsequent visits. During the inspections it was noted that the decorating of the work rooms was of much better standard than before the war. Where canteen facilities have been provided these appear to be well run and kept in a very clean condition.

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

46 samples of raw milk were submitted for examination by the methylene blue test. 37 were found to be good, 8 moderate and 1 bad. 38 samples of pasteurised milk were sent for the phosphatase test. 33 were found to be satisfactory and 5 unsatisfactory. Of 38 samples sent for the methylene blue test 37 were found to be satisfactory and 1 unsatisfactory.

Raw Milk Examination, 1947.

Category	...	...	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June
Good	...	...	5	—	—	3	—	2
Moderate	...	...	2	—	—	2	—	3
Bad	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	7	—	—	5	—	5
Category	...	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Good	...	4	—	4	6	6	7	37
Moderate	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	8
Bad	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Totals	...	5	—	4	6	7	7	46

Total for Year 46.

SECTION F. Infectious Diseases.

There was a short epidemic of Measles occurring during the summer months, and to a lesser extent one of Scarlet Fever during the same period. Seventeen of the twenty cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to hospital. No deaths from Infectious Diseases were reported.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925. These Regulations empower the Council to prevent persons suffering from tuberculosis to engage in the milk trade. No action was taken during 1947.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62 and Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172. No action was taken under this section whereby an infectious case of pulmonary tuberculosis may be compulsorily removed to hospital.

Four new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year and two deaths occurred from respiratory tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis After-Care. The Committee continues to take a great interest in the welfare of the patients. The preventive side of tuberculosis is stressed as well as making grants of assistance to the patients.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis), 1947

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	6	—	9	—	3	—	—	2	20
Measles	...	...	...	...	1	19	64	10	3	1	2	—	160
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	...	...	...	...	2	25	64	69	10	6	1	2	181

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis), 1947

Disease	-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & All Over Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Age Unknown
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	1	7	8	2	1	1	—	—	17	—	—
Measles	11	10	18	25	27	64	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	11	10	18	25	28	71	12	2	2	1	—	—	17	—	1

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1947.

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	1	1	—	—
25—	—	—	—	—
35—	1	—	—	—
45—	1	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	1	—	—

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1947.

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	1	—	—
25—	—	—	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—
45—	1	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	1	—	—

These figures which are locally compiled, differ slightly from the Registrar-General's figures given in Page 2.

